

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas recirculation system for an internal combustion engine, in which ~~at least one a~~ plurality of metal plate ~~is plates~~ are interposed between a cylinder head and a resin intake manifold, and an EGR gas passage is formed in the ~~plate~~ plates, characterized in that, an EGR gas outlet port is formed being located in a lowest portion of the EGR gas passage formed in the ~~plate~~ plates, being communicated with an intake passage formed in the ~~plate~~ plates.

2. (Original) An exhaust recirculation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein two of said metal plates are provided, one of which has a planar surface formed therein with a recess, and another of which is formed with a recess corresponding to the afore-mentioned recess so as to define the EGR gas passage by these recesses in the combination of these plates, and the EGR gas outlet port is formed in the lowest portion of the EGR gas passage.

3. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas recirculation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bottom surface of the EGR gas passage is sloped so as to be inclined downward on a side where the EGR gas outlet port is located in a for fore and aft direction of the plate plates.

4. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas recirculation system as set forth in claim 2, the bottom surfaces of the recesses which define the EGR gas passage, are sloped so as to be inclined downward on a side where the EGR gas outlet port is located, in a for fore and aft direction of the plates.

5. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas recirculation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein an EGR valve has a body housing which is integrally incorporated with one of the plate plates, being made of metal.

6. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas recirculation system as set forth in claim 2, wherein an EGR valve has a body housing which is integrally incorporated with one of the plate plates, being made of metal.

7. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas recirculation system as set forth in claim 3, wherein an EGR valve has a body housing which is integrally incorporated with one of the plate plates, being made of metal.

8. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas recirculation system as set forth in claim 4, wherein an EGR valve has a body housing which is integrally incorporated with one of the plate plates, being made of metal.